AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-17. Canceled.

18. (Currently Amended) In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, the reinforcing material resisting loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe,

wherein the reinforcing element has a width not substantially greater than a single corrugation.

19. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 18, wherein the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end.

20. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 18, wherein each section includes opposed male and female ends and the outside pipe diameter of each section between its respective male and female ends is substantially the same.

21. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 20, wherein the outside diameter of the female end of each section is substantially the same as the outside pipe diameter.

22. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 19, wherein the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and an annular valley therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, and wherein the annular channel is formed in one of the crests.

23. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 22, wherein the outside diameter of the male end is selected to permit mating and sealing engagement with the female end.

24. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 22, wherein each section includes an annular intermediate corrugation adjacent the male end defining an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the male end, the intermediate corrugation being disposed to engage the distal end of the female end when fully mated.

25. (Previously Presented) In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, the reinforcing material resisting loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe;

wherein the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end;

wherein the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and an annular valley therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, and wherein the annular channel is formed in one of the crests;

wherein each section includes an annular intermediate corrugation adjacent the male end defining an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the male end, the intermediate corrugation being disposed to engage the distal end of the female end when fully mated; and

wherein the outside diameter of the intermediate corrugation is less than the outside pipe diameter.

26. Canceled.

27. (Currently Amended) The corrugated pipe of claim ~~26~~ 30, wherein the male end also includes a second corrugation that can be accommodated in the female end.

28. (Currently Amended) The corrugated pipe of claim ~~26~~ 30, wherein the female end includes a distal end into which the male end is inserted, and a third corrugation with a crest that extends radially outwardly at least as far as the distal end of the female end.

29. (Currently Amended) A corrugated pipe for accommodating fluid flow, the pipe consisting of a material that deforms in response to internal water pressure and including two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular reinforcement disposed around the exterior surface of the female end, the annular reinforcement having a width that is greater than the width of the sealing element but is not substantially greater than a single corrugation, the annular reinforcement being ~~and is~~ disposed substantially upstream from the sealing element to resist loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe.

30. (New) A corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element,

the annular band comprising one of tape, an adhesive layer, and a suitable coating such that the corrugated pipe, which normally exhibits viscoelastic characteristics when subjected to a predetermined level of interior pressure, is precluded from expanding outwardly at the site of the sealing element, to resist loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe.